

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING

Communications from the minister of the United States at Paris, in regard to a proposed exhibition of fishery and water culture to be held at Arcachon, near Bordeaux, in France, in July next.

MARCH 14, 1866.—Read, referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit for your consideration a copy of two communications from the minister of the United States at Paris, in regard to a proposed exhibition of fishery and water culture to be held at Arcachon, near Bordeaux, in France, in July next.

ANDREW JOHNSON.

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1866.

List of accompanying papers.

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A.

[Despatch No. 187, with six enclosures.]

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

Paris, October 25, 1865.

SIR : I have the honor to transmit herewith a correspondence with Professor Coste, of the institute, in relation to an International Exposition of fishery and water culture, which is to take place under the auspices of the Scientific Society of Arcachon in July, 1866. Arcachon is a fishing town, about an hour's dis-

tance by rail from Bordeaux, and is peculiarly fitted by nature for the purpose contemplated. The Exposition will be in the main the fruit of private enterprise, though it receives a substantial subsidy from the state, and will be in a great degree controlled and directed by government officers.

In view of the fact that the people of the United States are more extensively engaged in the cod, whale, and oyster fishery than the people of any other nation, that we have fluvial system adapted to the indefinite culture and distribution of fish throughout the Union, and in view of the additional fact that the science of water culture has been carried to a higher point in France than anywhere else, thanks more especially to Professor Coste, who, by long study and experiment, has become the great European authority upon this subject, I hasten to send you the letter of Mr. Coste, and copies of the circular and regulations issued by the Scientific Society of Arcachon, that you may give such encouragement to a representation of the United States in this Exposition as you may think expedient.

I would suggest that none of the arrangements to be made for this Exposition be confounded with those making for the Exposition of 1867. That of Arcachon having its origin mainly in private enterprise, had better, in my judgment, be, so far as we are concerned, at least the product of private enterprise. Our government should confine its participation to the necessary publication of the proposals, and to such aid as its diplomatic and consular organization can conveniently render.

I am authorized to say, that the transport through France of all American articles exposed will be defrayed by the society, and I am encouraged to hope that this provision will be extended so as to embrace their transport from tide-water on the other side of the Atlantic. Upon that point I expect more precise information in due season.

Foreign exhibitors are not limited as to time in presenting their articles, though, of course, the sooner they arrive or have their space engaged, the greater advantages they will enjoy.

A collective exposition of the articles which take prizes at Arcachon will be forwarded, under the auspices of the society, to the Universal Exposition of 1867, and exhibited in the section of fishery and water culture.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. Wm. H. SEWARD,
Secretary of State.

A 1.

[Enclosure 1 to despatch No. 187.]

Professor Coste to Mr. Bigelow.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY OF ARCACHON,
International Exposition of Fishery and Water Culture,
Paris, October 14, 1865.

Mr. AMBASSADOR: The Scientific Society has the honor to transmit to your excellency a certain number of copies of the general regulations of its Exposition.

They would desire that your excellency would introduce this Exposition to the notice of your countrymen, and that you would have the kindness to designate those persons to whom it would be proper to make a special appeal.

By making collective Expositions, the different nations would simplify the task of the Scientific Society.

The society can do no more than call the attention of your excellency to this point, so important to the success of the enterprise, but it would be profoundly grateful if you would designate one of your countrymen whom it might request to act as commissioner general for the United States of America.

The society has the honor to mention to your excellency the names of Messieurs Loyseau de Reddemont (5 Rue Greffulhe,) and Henri de la Salle, (21 Rue de l'Odéon,) as special commissioners for foreign countries.

These gentlemen will be happy to give your excellency, in person, all the information which you may do them the honor to request

I have the honor to be, with profound respect, Mr. Ambassador, your excellency's very humble and very obedient servant,

COSTE,

Member of the Institute, President of the Paris Committee.

His Excellency the AMBASSADOR
of the United States of America.

A 2.

[Enclosure 2 to despatch 187.]

Circular of the Scientific Society of Arcachon.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY OF ARCACHON.—EXPOSITION OF FISHERY AND WATER CULTURE AT ARCACHON IN 1866, WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT.

The Scientific Society has undertaken to organize an Exposition of fishery and water culture, which will take place at Arcachon during the summer season of 1866. Designed to exhibit everything which in the world of salt and fresh water interests the industry of man, this Exposition, to which all countries are invited, will be effected by original private enterprise, upon the plan of district co-operation which the French government has instituted to stimulate the progress of agriculture.

The waters which cover the greater part of the globe are as fruitful as the land, and serve to fertilize it. The means employed for making use of them demand, in labor and invention, no less intelligence, no less boldness, than that by which continents are explored and reclaimed. Thus affording to man a means of subsistence, the industry which employs them exposes to incessant peril entire populations and enlightened governments to costly experiments. Yet this aquatic industry has never been the object of a special exposition; it has never appeared in a universal exposition.

Only recently, in the midst of the admirable representation of all the industries of the earth, fishery did not figure at the Exposition of London but by the exhibition of a few nets and lines; water culture did not figure at all; while the products of the soil, artistically grouped, gave a just idea of its richness and of the importance of our agriculture. The industry of the waters is, nevertheless, also a strength and a glory to France.

If agriculture furnishes us soldiers, fishery furnishes sailors; and if we have borrowed from England the improved methods of farming, it is to France that the English have come to gain the very idea of water culture.

So we may hope that the imperial commission of the coming Universal Exposition at Paris will think proper to make use of the Exposition of Arcachon to arrive in 1867, in the section of fishery and water culture, at the same remark-

able result attained by the imperial commission of the Universal Exposition of London, 1862, for the section of agriculture. This legitimate hope alone would justify the enterprise of the Scientific Society, and would demonstrate its actual value.

But is it not evident that to unite in one place the products and implements of fishery and of water culture, the books, manuscripts, and information relating thereto, to bring together around these objects of study the greatest possible number of fishers, water culturers, and economists, will be rendering to the industry of the waters the signal service rendered to agriculture by the first agricultural exposition?

If it is difficult, indeed, to popularize in our rural districts the adoption of the best breeds of animals and the best varieties of vegetables, the best implements, and the best books, in spite of all the occasions which exhibitions incessantly renewed afford for their being learned and appreciated, progress will be impossible for fishery and water culture as long as they who are devoted thereto, living isolated, remain in mutual ignorance of the experiments they are making and the processes they are employing.

An exposition of the implements of fishery will take place this very year at Bergen, in Norway. This is a happy imitation of the example given by Holland, an initiative justly appreciated, and with which the Scientific Society proposes to associate itself. But besides the implements of fishery, it would be proper to exhibit the products which they serve to gather.

An exposition of the products of fishery would have, moreover, an interest of its own if there were placed side by side each plant or animal in its natural state, and the same plant or animal in its manufactured state, with the secondary products derived from them by the industry of different countries.

Finally, works of natural history, of technology, of appropriate administration, and the plain communications forwarded by the working people or by the fishermen themselves, form an essential part of an exhibition of fishery.

On the other hand, fishery is only the first half of the industry of the waters; water culture is the second. This includes those aquatic products which man can fashion or multiply by the processes which he employs. The implements by aid of which he succeeds in thus continuing the work of creation: the writings which reveal to him his power, or which enable him to extend every day his peaceful conquests over nature.

The increasing need of provisions has called the public attention and the solicitude of governments to the advantage to be derived from more regular, more intelligent, and more complete development of the resources of the domain of the waters, as well for the enrichment of the soil as for food.

The very mistakes by which this awakened interest has been accompanied show how important it is to exhibit clearly the progress which has been really made.

Is there to-day an industry of the waters to take possession of our shores, of our rivers, of our lakes; to expend intelligence and capital in improvements; to confer a value upon those overflowed lands whose culture has long been considered impossible; an industry, in a word, which will one day hold the same relation to fishery that agriculture holds to the chase?

To answer this question, and to propose several which are suggested by it, is the purpose of the Exposition of Arcachon.

Its usefulness will not lessen its attractions; and from whatever point of view it is considered, the situation of the first exposition of fishery and water culture will appear well chosen.

Situated upon the sea-shore, on the line of the southern railway, adjacent to a series of lakes, forming itself, by its oyster beds and its fish reservoirs, an exposition impossible to transport, the *Basin of Arcachon* affords to the industry of the waters every facility of manifestation.

The effect of an exposition, as well as its success, greatly depends also upon the grouping of the objects displayed. So the art which is employed in the presentation of each detail, while respecting the order of subordination established in a systematic classification, will be able to interest even the curious, without distracting the attention of scientific and professional observers.

The fish, for instance, will be preserved by means of the improved processes, or modelled as are the collections of fruits which form the admiration of visitors in the expositions of horticulture, or alive in those aquaria which no one ever tires of seeing in the gardens of acclimatation.

The neighborhood of the basin will make it convenient to renew, as often as necessary, the water and specimens of the reservoirs.

A saloon will be set apart for the reading of papers. The society is not without hope of seeing opened a series of scientific conferences which will be the soul and spirit of the Exposition.

The timeliness, utility, and attractions of this Exposition induce the Scientific Society to count for its organization upon all those who, as economists, publicists, statesmen, are interested in the development of production and the well-being of populations.

It appeals also to those populations engaged in aquatic industry, over whose future this Exposition can exert so happy an influence, and, in particular, to the maritime population, to the proprietors and inhabitants of the shore of Arcachon, who, in addition to their part in the ultimate results, will enjoy the immediate advantage of attracting to their basin, their port, their strait and its industry the attention of a competent and enlightened public.

The society appeals to interest; it appeals to sympathy.

The prolonged tempests of this winter have not only caused disastrous shipwrecks, but they have rendered fishing impossible during a part of the season.

If these disasters are irreparable, there is no better means of preventing their repetition than by following the society in the way they have taken to be useful to our fishermen.

An Exposition is a great school which is only open for a moment.

To assure the happy results of that of Arcachon, the Scientific Society, after its adjournment, will constitute a museum and a library of objects relating to fishery and to water culture.

ARCACHON, *April 15, 1865.*

The council of administration—

LAMARQUE DE PLAISANCE, (Mayor of Arcachon,
Member of the Council General of the Gironde.)
Honorary President.

DR. HAMEAU, *President.*

DR. MICÉ, *Vice-President.*

COMTE DE MONTAULT, *Secretary.*

DMOKOWSKI, *Treasurer.*

FILLIOUX, *Conservator.*

Administrators—

P. LACONIN, *Late Inspector of the Imperial
Commission of London.*

X. MOULS.

BERO.

CASPARY.

A 3.

[Enclosure 3 to despatch No. 187.]

General regulations and dispositions.

GENERAL REGULATIONS.

TITLE I.

ARTICLE 1. The exposition of fishery and water culture shall be opened at Arcachon in the month of July, 1866. It will continue one month at least, and three months at most.

ART. 2. It will receive products, implements, and writings.

ART. 3. Products comprise fish, birds, shells, plants, salts, &c., and generally animals, vegetables, and minerals produced in salt or fresh waters. These products include also certain salt provisions, conserves, oils, &c., and generally those manufactured and industrial products derived from the waters.

ART. 4. Implements comprise boats, nets, lines, collecting apparatus, and generally all the appliances and tools of fishery and of water culture in their practical form or as models. They comprehend also certain raw materials, such as cordage, thread, hemp, cotton, &c., as well as the machines used in manufacturing them.

ART. 5. Writings comprise books, essays, pamphlets, memoranda, documents, notes, statistics, newspaper articles, journals and reviews, &c., and generally works on fishery and water culture, printed or in manuscript. A special section (section III) will be devoted to manuscripts in these regulations. Plans in relief, models, designs, photographs, cards, &c., may be exposed with the objects to which they belong, or separately.

ART. 6. Articles admitted will be exhibited under the name of the fisherman, the water cultivator, the manufacturer, the sail-maker, the rope-maker, the net-maker, the constructor, the inventor, the author, &c., and, in general, of the producer or workman. But they may also be exhibited under the name of the dealer, the collector, the jobber in such articles.

ART. 7. The admission to the exhibition of any object, under any title whatever, will not prejudice in the least the rights of property, invention or priority.

ART. 8. The manufacturers of pumps, cloths, tarred papers, &c., and, in general, of things necessary in the establishment of the Exposition, who may offer to furnish gratuitously or at reduced prices a part of the fitting up, shall be admitted as exhibitors unclassified.

ART. 9. There will be admitted as exhibitors in like manner, unclassified, when it is not practicable to classify them, museums, societies, scientific men, or artists possessing objects of art, such as jewels, paintings, pictures, made with aquatic products, or objects of art, such as fountains, basins, statues, which may serve to increase the attraction of the Exposition.

ART. 10. Functionaries stationed at convenient points are requested, as well as private individuals, to assist in every way possible the work of the Scientific Society. They may do this in promoting the establishment of separate expositions, and especially of collective expositions.

ART. 11. Communications made by the authorities or by individuals on the subject of the Exposition will be addressed to *M. le Directeur de l'Exposition à Arcachon, Gironde.*

SECTION II.

Special dispositions of products, of implements, and of works, not manuscript.

TITLE II.

Admission of exhibitors.

ART. 12. Applications for admission of French exhibitors should be made to the president of the society before the 31st October, 1865. The first applications will have preference, other things being equal. Those persons especially who would desire to have cast, or stuffed, or modelled, at the cost of the Scientific Society, the natural products or the implements of their locality, should forward their application for admission as soon as possible.

ART. 13. Applications for admission should indicate :

1. The name and residence of the applicant legibly written.
2. The number and nature of the objects presented.
3. Their dimensions, length, breadth, and height.
4. The conditions of exposition which they require, (shelter, glass, fresh or salt water.)
5. The title under which the applicant desires to be admitted as exhibitor.

ART. 14. There shall be joined to each application for admission a card for the Committee on Prizes, which card shall contain all general or special information necessary for the appreciation of the merit of the objects presented, and of the importance of the industry or commerce which they serve, or may serve.

ART. 15. The commonest products, the most ordinary implements, will not be refused unless space should lack.

ART. 16. The exhibitors who are admitted, as well as those who are refused, will be informed of the decision concerning them as soon as possible, or, at latest, before the 15th of March.

ART. 17. A catalogue, which will appear the day of the opening of the Exposition, will give the exact list of the exhibitors admitted, and will add to their names, if desired, a résumé of the information which they have furnished.

ART. 18. The prospectuses may be printed entire, in addition to the catalogue, at the cost of the exhibitor who shall have requested it in the card forwarded to the Committee on Prizes.

TITLE III.

Transport, reception, unpacking, arrangement, supervision, repacking, and return of objects admitted.

ART. 19. The objects admitted will be forwarded to the address indicated above (Art. 10 and 11) during the month of June, 1866, unless special indications to the contrary shall be issued from the commission of the Exposition.

Raw products, for instance, which are to be modelled or set up at the cost of the society, should be forwarded as soon after their admission as the fishing season will permit, to the address which will be finally indicated. Those which are to be forwarded alive should not, on the other hand, be sent until a time as near as possible to the opening of the Exposition, or even during its continuance.

ART. 20. The objects sent should all bear, legibly written, their local names, and as far as possible their synonyms, the name of the exhibitor, the place of production, and the price of sale.

ART. 21. The society will transport over the railroads of France from the station whence they are forwarded, will receive, unpack, arrange, guard, repack, and, finally, will send back to the before-mentioned station all, at its own cost, the objects to which it thinks this favor should be accorded.

ART. 22. The letter of admission sent to each exhibitor after the 1st of January, 1866, will let him know if the society intends to charge itself with a part of the expense of his contribution, and what part.

ART. 23. The living products, plants or animals, will be placed in reservoirs

or cages, at the cost of the society. Water, salt or fresh, and food, will be furnished them gratuitously up to the day indicated for their departure.

ART. 24. Such dead products as have been preserved by the care of the society may be reclaimed by paying the cost of the work. It will be the same with moulds and models.

ART. 25. The society will confide the preparation of dead products admitted in their natural state to a distinguished naturalist; but it does not answer for their preparation, nor for their modelling. It will take the necessary measures to guard the object exposed from all accidents; but it is in no way responsible for fires, breakages, injuries, or damages which they may suffer, whatever may be their cause and extent. Still less will it be responsible for the sickness or death of any product received alive. It will take care that the objects exhibited shall be cared for by numerous and active employés; but it will not be responsible for thefts and abstractions which may take place.

ART. 26. No object exhibited shall be taken from the place of the Exposition before its close without special permission of the director.

ART. 27. A special personal ticket of admission will be given to each exhibitor or his agent gratuitously.

TITLE IV.

Prizes.

ART. 28. A special committee shall be charged with the distribution of prizes to exhibitors who, under any title, shall appear to merit them.

ART. 29. These prizes will consist of medals and honorable mentions.

ART. 30. A report of the Exposition of Arcachon will be addressed to the imperial commission of the Universal Exposition of Paris in 1867.

ART. 31. The prize exhibitors may form, under the patronage of the Scientific Society, a collective exposition to be presented to the Exposition of Paris, in the section of fishery and water culture.

SECTION III.

Special dispositions of manuscripts.

TITLE V.

ART. 32. There will be addressed to all the persons who request it of the society, a formula of questions relative to fishery and water culture, from the stand-point of natural history and industry.

ART. 33. The answers to this series of questions should come to the society before the 1st of March, 1866.

ART. 34. The necessary expenses of this branch of the Exposition, carriage, arrangement, return, will be borne entirely by the society for all papers accepted.

ART. 35. No paper shall be refused which shall be of the character of an observation of facts.

ART. 36. The most interesting articles furnished by exhibitors admitted may be printed at the expense of the society, and published by it as a résumé of their work.

ART. 37. The rules of articles 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 are applicable to exhibitors of manuscripts.

SECTION IV.

Prize of honor.

TITLE VI.

ART. 38. There will be conferred, in the distribution of prizes, a premium of honor upon the system of water culture which has realized the most profitable improvements, and those most fitted to be offered as examples.

ART. 39. Water cultivators desirous of competing for this premium should make their applications to the president of the Scientific Society, before the 1st January, 1866, addressing to him a detailed report of their system.

ART. 40. A sub-commission will be charged by the commission of the Exposition to visit those establishments which it may be considered necessary to visit.

TABLE OF CLASSES.

(Each class will be divided into two sections, fishery and water culture; and each section into two sub-sections, salt water and fresh water.)

PRODUCTS.

1. Products serving for food.
2. Products serving for medicine.
3. Products serving for the arts.
4. Products serving for industry in general.
5. Products serving for agriculture.
6. Products serving for the industry of the waters themselves.
7. Miscellaneous products.
8. Collection of products.

IMPLEMENTS.

9. Implements of preparation.
10. Implements of transportation.
11. Implements of labor.
12. Implements of preservation.
13. Implements for forwarding.
14. Miscellaneous implements.
15. Collection of implements.

WRITINGS.

16. Writings on natural history.
17. Writings on technology.
18. Writings on social economy.
19. Miscellaneous writings.
20. Collection of writings.

PAUL LACON, *Director.*

A 4.

[Enclosure 4 to despatch No 187.]

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Coste.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

Paris, October 25, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 14th instant, with its enclosures, inviting my country people to participate in the International Exposition of fishery and water culture which is to have place at Arcachon in July next.

I have read the circular and regulations issued by the Scientific Society of Arcachon with great interest, and do not permit myself to doubt that the results of the contemplated Exposition will be proportioned to the distinguished auspices under which it is commended to the public attention.

I have taken steps to have the project brought to the knowledge of my country

people, and beg to assure you that nothing shall be wanting on my part to secure such a representation from the United States as is due from a country adapted by nature to profit more largely, perhaps, than any other in the development of the sciences of fishery and water culture.

I shall avail myself of an early opportunity of sending you, as you request, a list of persons to whom the Scientific Society might, with advantage, address copies of its circulars.

Accept, sir, the assurance of my most distinguished consideration,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Monsieur COSTE, *of the Institute of France.*

B.

[Despatch No. 196 with one enclosure.]

Mr. Bigelow to Mr. Seward.

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,

Paris, November 15, 1865.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit a note just received from the Paris commissioner of the Exposition of fishery and water culture, which I beg you to add to the documents already sent in relation to that subject,

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN BIGELOW.

Hon. WILLIAM H. SEWARD,

Secretary of State.

B 1.

[Enclosure to No. 196.]

Mr. Reddemont to Mr. Bigelow.

PARIS, *November 2, 1865.*

MR. MINISTER: I have only just now received the reply to the question you addressed to me some days ago relative to the transportation of the products or objects which are to figure in 1866 at the International Exposition of fishery and water culture at Arcachon.

I hasten to inform you the transportation will be wholly at the charge of exhibitors, but the objects which they send will enjoy a reduction of 50 per cent. upon all ships of the "Compagnie General Trans-Atlantique."

I take advantage of this occasion, Mr. Minister, to beg that you will send me, as promptly as possible, the list of exhibitors to whom the Scientific Society should address itself, and especially the name and the address of the manufacturer, or savant, or public officer which it might profitably request to act as commissioner general, so as to centralize its operations as much as possible in each nation.

I have the honor to be, with profound respect, Mr. Minister, your very obedient and very devoted servant,

A. LOYSEAU DE REDDEMONT,

*Member of the Committee of Paris, and Commissioner of the
Scientific Exposition of Arcachon, 9 Rue de Grefulhe, Paris.*

Hon. JOHN BIGELOW, &c., &c., &c., *Paris.*